

Minutes of the Special and Regular Meeting Of February 8, 2005
Twin Pines Senior And Community Center, 1223 Ralston Avenue

SPECIAL MEETINGS

CLOSED SESSION - 6:15 P.M.

- A. Public Employee Appointment Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957:
City Manager
- B. Public Employee Appointment Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957:
City Attorney

Attended by Councilmembers Feierbach, Mathewson, Metropulos, Bob Murray, City Manager Recruitment Consultant (Item A only), Interim City Manager Rich (Item B only), City Clerk Cook was excused from attending. Councilmembers Warden and Bauer were absent.

ADJOURNMENT at this time, being 7:30 P.M., these Closed Sessions were adjourned.

This meeting not tape-recorded or videotaped.

Terri Cook
City Clerk

REGULAR MEETING
CALL TO ORDER - 7:35 P.M.

ROLL CALL

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Feierbach, Mathewson, Metropulos

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Warden, Bauer

Staff Present: Interim City Manager Rich, Deputy City Attorney Zafferano, Public Works Director Davis, Community Development Director Ewing, City Clerk Cook.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by City Clerk Cook.

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

Vice-Mayor Mathewson stated that direction was given, but no action taken, at the Closed Sessions held earlier in the evening.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Ralston-Namur (Belgium) Band Students

John deBaldo, Ralston Middle School music teacher, stated that 300 students participate in music at Ralston. He thanked the community for its support of the music program. He noted that the idea for a band tour to Namur, Belgium, arose approximately 18 months ago.

Emily Yousef, Ralston student, gave a background of Belgium and Namur, including details of the formation of the Sister City relationship. She stated that students from Namur were scheduled to visit Belmont in 2006. She provided a background of the Ralston Band, and outlined some of the current programs.

Nathan Lee, Ralston student, reviewed the details of the music students' April tour of Paris and Belgium.

Hannah Sarver, Ralston student, stated that the students would also travel to Bastogne, Belgium, and the students were preparing to present themselves as ambassadors from Belmont. She reviewed the activities in which the students were engaged to prepare themselves for this trip, including a concert to be held on March 23 at Notre Dame de Namur University Theater.

Alan Sarver, Co-President, Ralston Music Boosters, stated that 41 students were participating in the trip to Namur, and that they would be staying in the homes of their Namur E-pals. He outlined the fundraising activities prior to their departure, including dinner at Amici's and Vivace Restaurants, upcoming car washes, and the March 23rd concert.

Proclamation Recognizing the American Heart Association's "Wear Red for Women Day"

Tamara Trevz, American Heart Association, thanked the Council for helping with the recognition. She noted that Kaiser Hospital is joining with the Association in its goal to bring awareness that heart disease is the number one cause of death among women. She stated that this effort has produced a 30 percent decrease in the risk of death from heart disease in Kaiser members.

Presentation on Solar Energy Issues

Interim City Manager Rich stated that the purpose of this presentation was to educate the City Council and community on solar options.

Tim Sears, Grid Alternatives, stated that his company was a nonprofit affordable solar housing program in San Mateo County. He defined the three types of solar power, including solar electric, solar thermal, and passive solar, and noted that all three are economically feasible and desired, and environmentally sound. He reviewed the benefits, including production, and noted that social benefits included jobs and the diversification of energy sources and uses. He addressed the myths associated with solar energy, including cost, aesthetics, competitiveness with fossil fuels, and reliability.

Dean Heatherington, PG&E, outlined the solar programs offered by PG&E, and reviewed the future opportunities being developed. Programs include a self-generation incentive program for business and large institutions, and emerging renewals for residential customers. He stated that PG&E was getting ready to pilot a performance-based incentive system, and would also be piloting a solar schools program, which would be combined with the school curriculum. He also outlined PG&E's solar roofs program for both residential and commercial, as well as information and loans available through PG&E and the Department of Energy's websites. He also provided some pricing information.

Gina Blus, Recycle Works, stated that her organization addressed sustainable issues. She noted that other communities are encouraging the use of solar: East Palo Alto requires solar use on all new conditional use permits, Portola Valley's permit fee is only \$50 for those using solar, regardless of the size of the application, San Mateo requires the use of solar on its own facilities. She noted that two homes in Belmont were featured on recent "green" tours. She reviewed the ways that cities can encourage solar use. She noted a recent study conducted by San Ramon.

In response to Councilmember Feierbach's question regarding solar domain, Ms. Blus stated that some cities incorporate solar domain in design review guidelines, and some cities are rigid in their requirements of its use.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bill Dickenson, Sterling Downs Neighborhood Association President, thanked the Council for addressing the proposed Fairfield Housing project on Old County Road.

Joan Peceimer, Friends of Belmont Library (FOBL) President, announced a Mystery Author Night hosted by FOBL, and stated that fundraising efforts for the new library were ongoing. She noted that the Van's Restaurant would sponsor a dinner on March 21, and that the Chamber of Commerce would present its fundraising proceeds check at Vivace Restaurant on February 17.

Dave Long, South Road, expressed concerns regarding the administrative approval for modifications of a home on Kingston Road, which is listed in Belmont's Historic Inventory. He noted that this project represents a loss of an historic resource, although the owner has a desire to preserve the home. He commented that the Historic Inventory is outdated, that the code was misinterpreted for this project, and that administrative approval should not have been granted in this case.

Interim City Manager Rich responded that a report to Council regarding this issue was forthcoming.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice Mayor Mathewson announced that pile driving would be taking place on the Ralston/101 Interchange project.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of Meeting Minutes of Special and Regular Meeting of January 11, 2005.

Approval of Resolution 9625 Approving Specifications and Authorizing the Purchase of a New CNG Powered Regenerative Air Street Sweeper to the Lowest Responsible Bidder in an Amount not to Exceed \$219,396.

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Metropulos, seconded by Councilmember Feierbach, the Consent Calendar was unanimously approved by a show of hands (3-0, Warden, Bauer absent).

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion and Direction Regarding Concluding Report from Library Steering Committee

Interim City Manager Rich stated that the Steering Committee's work was now done, and it could meet on an ad hoc basis if necessary. The new library was under construction. He publicly acknowledged David Braunstein and Jan Engel for their leadership role on this committee.

COMMISSION, COMMITTEE UPDATES, AND STAFF ITEMS

Discussion and Direction regarding Community participation in City Manager interview process.

Due to the absence of Councilmember Bauer and Mayor Warden, it was recommended to continue this item.

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Metropulos, seconded by Councilmember Feierbach, this item was unanimously continued to February 22, 2005 by a show of hands (3-0, Warden, Bauer absent).

MATTERS OF COUNCIL INTEREST/CLARIFICATION

Discussion and direction regarding electronic timer for public speakers for new Council chambers (Warden).

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Metropulos, seconded by Councilmember Feierbach, this item was unanimously continued to February 22, 2005 by a show of hands (3-0, Warden, Bauer absent).

ADJOURNMENT at this time, being 8:40 P.M.

Terri Cook
Belmont City Clerk

Meeting Tape Recorded and Videotaped
Tape No. 602
Minutes approved 3/8/05